

down in honor or dishonor until the latest generation" but that so long as the people "retain their virtue and vigilance, no administration, by any extreme of wickedness or folly, can very seriously injure the government in the short space of four years."

And Lincoln was right, for on Election Day 2020, Americans by a substantial majority, voted to withhold consent to govern from an incumbent administration and confer it upon another. That act of self-government and sovereign expression was solemnized on January 20, 2021, at noon when Joseph R. Biden and KAMALA D. HARRIS took the oath of office as the 46th President and 59th Vice-President of the United States.

The Philadelphia Miracle of 1789 endures but only because we Americans resolve that it does and work to make it so. The President takes the oath of office pledging to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. As does every one of my congressional colleagues, I have sacredly pledged true faith and allegiance in defending the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic and to well and faithfully execute the duties of the office I hold. I do this ever mindful that the purpose of our form of government is "to form a more perfect union, to establish justice, to insure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, to promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessings of liberty for posterity."

But we all have a responsibility to preserve and strengthen this constitutional republic and pass it on to the next generation by engaging in robust, lawful, and peaceful civic activity to hold our government to account and to peaceably assemble when necessary to petition for a redress of grievances as shown by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the March on Washington, following the example of Mahatma Gandhi; by John Lewis and the Civil Rights foot soldiers at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama; by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott at Seneca Falls; by Cesar Chavez leading the fight for human dignity of farmworkers, and by Black Lives Matter demonstrators protesting inequalities in the criminal justice system. For the work of democracy is never complete, our union is always in the process of being made more perfect.

Americans have suffered, endured, and survived much pain and heartbreak over the past five years. But Psalms 30:5 teaches that "weeping lasteth for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" and our collective journey towards the beloved community continues inexorably forward.

#### RECOGNIZING SENATOR DOUGLAS J. ERICKSEN

#### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2022*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, my heart is heavy as I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Senator Douglas Erickson, who passed away on December 17, 2021 after a battle with COVID-19. My prayers are with Doug's family as we mourn his passing.

Doug dedicated his life to working on behalf of the people of Whatcom County, serving in

both the Washington State House of Representatives and Senate for more than two decades. Throughout his tenure, Doug was a champion for the rights of every individual, and he was a fierce defender of the Constitution.

In Eastern Washington, Doug will always be remembered for being a strong advocate of the Snake River dams—which isn't common for someone from the West side of Washington. His pragmatic approach towards finding balanced solutions to our State's biggest environmental problems made him a special partner of mine for many years, and I will miss his leadership—along with his quick-witted humor—dearly.

Above all else, Doug was a remarkable husband to his wife Tasha, father to his daughters Elsa and Addi, friend, and neighbor. His loss will be felt deeply across the entire state of Washington for many years to come, but I thank God for giving me the blessing of calling Doug my friend.

Madam Speaker, Doug Ericksen lived an amazing life that deserves to be celebrated. In honor of his legacy, passion, and contributions that inspired so many, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Washington State Senator Doug Ericksen. May God grant him eternal peace in His kingdom.

#### MR. JAMES NEAL MCCOY OF DALLAS

#### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2022*

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. James Neal McCoy of Dallas, Texas. A quick glance at James McCoy's life is enough for anyone to tell that he was a man of extraordinary character. Throughout his entire life, he has been a beacon of academic and professional excellence and has had a profound impact on those around him.

As a true entrepreneur, Mr. McCoy, after graduating Pennsylvania State University with a Master of Science, purchased a company dedicated to supplying instruments, technology, and training for optimizing the performance of oil, water, and gas wells. This company, Echometer, blossomed under his leadership and Mr. McCoy built an impressive record as a sound, reasonable and conscious business owner lending his innovations to the public for the benefit of all. Following his success, he established the James N. McCoy Foundation. Which, since its inception, has provided support and financial assistance to a wide variety of educational, healthcare, and crime prevention organizations.

James' life was changed forever as he married the love of his life, Vicki. Together the two began a family with their son, Mark, and daughter, Melinda. The tremendous impact that James and his family have had on their community cannot be understated and will not be forgotten. The fulfilling life that James led, and his legacy, will be remembered for generations by his grandchildren. James McCoy will live on as an inspiration for those that strive for excellence.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize James McCoy's devotion to his community.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal commendations to James McCoy and his family for all they have done in service of the 4th Congressional District of Texas. May God rest the soul of this great American.

#### IN MEMORY OF DORIS TOPSY-ELVORD

#### HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 6, 2022*

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Doris Topsy-Elvord, an icon in the Long Beach community for more than a half century and the first African-American woman elected to the Long Beach City Council, who passed away on Wednesday, December 15.

I was fortunate to not only work with her over her many years of public service, but to also count her as a dear personal friend who provided me with advice and support throughout the decades we knew each other.

As Doris told the Long Beach Historical Society in a 2015 retrospective on her life, she was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on June 17, 1931. She and her family moved to Long Beach in 1942, where she attended and graduated from St. Anthony Elementary and High Schools. In 1956, Doris worked as a California Youth Authority counselor, followed by positions in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. For nineteen years she worked for the Los Angeles County Probation Department as a Deputy Probation Officer II. On June 22, 1988, after 35 years of public service with the California Youth Authority, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's and Probation Departments, she proudly retired. Along the way she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from California State University, Long Beach and a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration from Chapman College.

In 1988, Doris became a member of the City of Long Beach Civil Service Commission and served one term as president. From November 1987 through November 1989 Doris served as Commissioner of the first Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

In 1992, she became the first African-American female to be elected to the Long Beach City Council. In 1996, she was re-elected and holds the singular distinction of being selected as Vice Mayor of the City of Long Beach twice unanimously. During this time, she successfully organized the Jim Wilson Memorial BBQ Cook-Off Gospel and Blues Festival, the Herb Smith Annual Slowpitch Tournament, and the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Unity Parade and Celebration.

Over her lengthy career, Doris received many deserving honors and accolades from numerous organizations and individuals, including being inducted into the St. Anthony High School Hall of Fame in 1991. In 1993, she was named Woman of the Year by the Long Beach Junior Chamber of Commerce and the following year she was honored by the California State Senate as Woman of the Year.

In 2003, she was nominated to join the Port of Long Beach Harbor Commission by then-